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APR 14 2015

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

**April 13, 2015**

Interested Party List

RE: Final Expanded Checklist EA for URS Energy and Construction, Inc., (URS) for  
an Amendment to Operating Permit 00148

Dear Reader:

A Draft Expanded Checklist Environmental Assessment (CEA) was issued for an amendment to the operating permit held by URS Energy and Construction, Inc., (URS) located at 91 South Main Street, Soda Springs, ID, 83276. On February 18, 2014, URS submitted an application to amend Operating Permit No. 00148 to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The rock quarry operated under the permit is located in Jefferson County, approximately 1 mile north of the former Pipestone RV campground, in portions of Sections 17, 20, and 21, Township 2 North, Range 5 West.

The amendment would allow an increase in the permitted area from 94.7 acres to 98.5 acres, increasing the disturbance area from 62.5 acres to 64.6 acres, allowing the mining of an additional 1,240,000 tons of rock for railroad ballast and extending the life of mine by four years to 2025.

The depth of the existing pit would be increased in the phase two area by 115 feet and in the phase three area by 65 feet from what is currently permitted. The length and size of the pit would not change as mining would be conducted within the currently permitted boundary. The flow path of the ephemeral channel located on the east side of the pit would be altered to flow into the reclaimed pit.

This Draft CEA evaluated the potential impacts from the proposed amendment. The DEQ must decide whether to approve the permit as proposed, deny the request for an operating permit, or approve the operating permit with modifications.

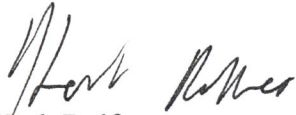
The Draft CEA addressed issues and concerns raised during public involvement and from agency scoping. The comment period on the Draft CEA ended on April 6, 2015. Only one comment was received. The comment noted that there are motorized trails in the Pipestone area near the permit area, but that the amendment should not have any impact on those activities.

The agency has decided to approve the amendment with a change in the east channel. The channel will be begin south of the pond located near section 16 instead of just north of the pond and within section 16.

Copies of the Draft CEA can be obtained by writing DEQ, Environmental Management Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, c/o Herb Rolfes, or calling (406) 444-3841; or sending email addressed to [hrolfes@mt.gov](mailto:hrolfes@mt.gov). The Draft CEA is also posted on the DEQ web page: [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov).

If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herb Rolfes', is written over the typed name.

Herb Rolfes  
Operating Permit Section Supervisor  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901  
(406)444-3841 or email at [hrolfes@mt.gov](mailto:hrolfes@mt.gov)

File: 00148.353  
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